

REMARKS**I. General**

Applicant notes with gratitude the indication in the current Office Action (mailed November 17, 2004) of claims 1-3, 7, 9-14, 35-59, 63-67, and 69-72 as allowable. The only remaining issues raised in the current Office Action are:

- Claims 60-62 and 68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In response, Applicant respectfully traverses the outstanding claim rejections, and requests reconsideration and withdrawal thereof in light of the amendments and remarks presented herein.

II. Amendments

Claims 60-61 and 68 are amended herein. No new matter is entered by these amendments. Entry of these amendments after final is respectfully requested as they do not raise new issues, but rather resolve outstanding 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph issues and either place the claims in condition for allowance or in better condition for appeal.

Claims 60 and 61 are each amended herein to delete the term “highest” therefrom. More specifically, claim 60 is amended to delete the phrase “that provides the highest quality set of k features for predicting presence of said target when added to the $k-1$ subset”. Claim 61 is amended to delete the phrase “that provide the highest quality set of m features for predicting the presence of said target when added to the k subset”. As these amendments remove the term “highest,” they resolve the outstanding 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph issues, as discussed further below.

Claim 68 is amended herein to delete the term “immunological information” therefrom. As such, this amendment resolves the outstanding 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph issue raised in the current Office Action for claim 68, as discussed further below.

The above amendment to claim 68 is made to expedite prosecution, and is not intended to surrender any scope of the claims from which claim 68 depends. For instance, the term “target” as used in independent claim 65 is intended to be afforded its full scope as such term is described in the specification of the present application, which is defined therein to encompass immunological information. Further, Applicant believes the concepts described in the present application are sufficiently described as to enable their application by those of ordinary skill in the immunological arts to apply such concepts for predicting the presence of immunological information that may be of interest to predict.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 60-62

Claims 60-61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite in their use of the term “highest.” As described above, each of claims 60 and 61 are amended herein to remove the term “highest.” As no other terms in these claims are identified in the current Office Action as being vague or indefinite, this amendment is believed to resolve the outstanding issue regarding these claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 60-61 and passing of these claims to allowance.

Because the Office Action does not specifically address any reason why claim 62 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and because claim 62 does not recite “highest” as with claims 60-61, Applicant assumes that claim 62 is rejected merely because of its dependency from 61. Thus, because the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph issue has been resolved with regard to claim 61, as discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 62 is also proper under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 62 and passing of this claim to allowance.

Claim 68

Claim 68 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite in its use of the term “immunological information.” As described above, claim 68 is amended herein to remove this term. As no other terms in this claim is identified in the current Office

Action as being vague or indefinite, this amendment is believed to resolve the outstanding issue regarding claim 68. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 68 and passing of this claim to allowance.

IV. Conclusion

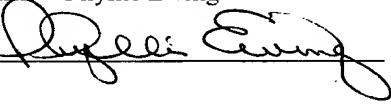
In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-1078, under Order No. 10004226-1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

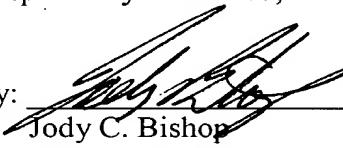
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Date of Deposit: January 14, 2005

Typed Name: Phyllis Ewing

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Respectfully submitted,

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